

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00179 110521Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

FEA-01 IO-10 /106 W

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R 110417Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 857

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS MUSCAT 179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, MU

SUBJECT: VISIT BY FCO MINISTER OF STATE DAVID ENNALS

REF: MUSCAT 166 (NOTAL)

1. FCO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, DAVID ENNALS, VISITED OMAN WEEK OF FEB. 3 AT BEGINNING OF TOUR THROUGHOUT GULF. HE WAS WELL AND WARMLY RECEIVED, AND BOTH BRITISH EMBASSY AND OMANGOV SEEM TO BE PLEASED WITH RESULTS. DURING HIS STAY, ENNALS MET, INTER ALIA, WITH SULTAN QABOOS, FONMIN ZAWAWI AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS RAJAB.

2. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE, ENNALS MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS OF INTEREST:

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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00179 110521Z

A. "I WANT TO REAFFIRM THAT BRITISH LABOR GOVERNMENT

CONSIDERS STRENGTHENING OF HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN U.K. AND SULTANATE TO BE AN IMPORTANT MATTER. (HMG) SUPPORTS OMAN ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, AND CONSIDERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HERE TO MERIT OUR ASSISTANCE..."

B. "DURING MY VISIT I ALSO WANT TO RESTATE CONTINUATION OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT ON PART OF LABOR GOVERNMENT AND CONTINUATION OF OFFERING TO SUPPLY OMANI ARMY BOTH WITH MATERIEL AND ADVISERS..."

C. ASKED ABOUT USG PROPOSAL RE MASIRAH, ENNALS REPLIED THAT HMG NOT INFORMED OF NATURE OF USG PROPOSALS BUT THAT HE WOULD GIVE OPINION WHEN APPRISED OF DETAILS. (SEE REFTEL.)

D. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "THREATS" TO "OCCUPY" OIL PRODUCING STATES, ENNALS RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT DR. KISSINGER LITERALLY INTENDED TO IMPLY OCCUPATION, AND THAT SECRETARY HAD CLARIFIED CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS. HMG SEEKS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES AND LOOKS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF "OIL PROBLEM" THROUGH COOPERATION AMONG PRODUCING AND CONSUMING NATIONS. INCREASE IN OIL PRICES JUST ONE OF SEVERAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD INFLATION. RISE IN COST OF MANUFACTURED AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS LIKEWISE CONTRIBUTORY.

E. RE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO AREA BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, ENNALS STATED THAT HMG WELCOMES THIS INITIATIVE AND HOPES THAT IT WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS.
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